

THE URBAN DISTRICT OF  
ESHER



Annual Report

OF THE  
Medical Officer of Health  
AND THE  
Senior Sanitary Inspector

For the Year ended December 31st, 1940.



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## PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

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COUNCILLOR FRANKS ( <i>Chairman</i> ).			
COUNCILLOR BROWN.		COUNCILLOR MARRIN.	
„	BUCHANAN.	„	SIMPSON.
„	EDWARDS.	„	SUTER.
„	FINCH.	„	THOMPSON.
„	DR. GUNTHER.	„	TODD.
„	LOWE.	„	WILSON.

### *Ex-Officio Members :*

COUNCILLOR T. GIBBONS, J.P. (*Chairman of the Council*).  
COUNCILLOR T. W. CLAYTON (*Vice-Chairman of the Council*).

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## PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

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### Personnel.

#### Medical Officer of Health :

\*J. FANNING, M.D. B.S. (London) D.P.H.

#### Senior Sanitary Inspector :

\*REGINALD F. WHEELER, M.R.San.I., A.M.I.S.E.,  
M.S.I.A. Certificates of the Royal Sanitary Institute  
as Sanitary Inspector and Inspector of Meat and  
other Foods.

#### Additional Sanitary Inspectors :

\*JOHN C. ARMSTRONG, M.S.I.A., Cert. R. San. I., Certifi-  
cates of the Royal Sanitary Institute as Sanitary  
Inspector and Inspector of Meat and other Foods.

\*JOHN W. HOBSON, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., Certificates of  
the Royal Sanitary Institute as Sanitary Inspector,  
Inspector of Meat and other Foods, and in Sanitary  
Science.

#### Clerks :

MISS M. E. WEDDERBURN.

J. M. BELL (Serving with H.M. Forces as from 3/9/39).  
C. F. PACKHAM.

MRS. AKERS (Clerk dealing with Civil Defence Casualty  
Services).

#### Mortuary Keeper and Disinfecter :

F. KIMBER.

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#### Clerk and Solicitor of the Council :

FREDERICK EDWARDS.

#### Public Analyst.

ED. HINKS, F.I.C.

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\*Contribution of salary made from the Exchequer.

## Urban District of Esher.

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COUNCIL OFFICES,

ESHER.

*July, 1941.*

*To the Chairman and Members  
of the Urban District Council.*

MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my annual report for the year 1940, which has been prepared on the lines indicated in Ministry of Health Circular 2314.

The first complete year of war has produced a birth rate of 14.64 per 1,000 population compared with 15.78 in the previous year and a death rate of 11.38 per 1,000 population compared with a previous figure of 10.20.

It is encouraging to report, however, that there was a slight fall in the infantile mortality rate, and there were no maternal deaths.

The infectious disease rates were on the whole very satisfactory.

The work of the department continues to be maintained in its essentials and I am exceedingly grateful to Mr. Wheeler, the Senior Sanitary Inspector, and to all the other members of the staff of the department for their unfailing help.

I am, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. FANNING, M.D., B.S. (Lond.), D.P.H.

*Medical Officer of Health,*

## SECTION A.

## Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	...	14,847
Registrar General's estimate of resident population	...					45,270
Number of inhabited houses—end of 1940—according to rate books	...	...	...	...	...	13,297
Rateable value	...	...	...	...	...	£627,145
Product of a penny rate 1940/41 (estimated)	...				...	£2,366

## Extracts from Vital Statistics :—

Live Births				Total.	M.	F.
Legitimate	...	...	...	632	334	298
Illegitimate	...	...	...	31	15	16
Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population—14.64.						

				Total.	M.	F.
Still Births	...	...	...	18	7	11
Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births—24.96.						

Deaths—Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population  
—Crude 11.73; Corrected 11.38.

Deaths from puerperal causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar General's Short List)—

Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	...	Nil
Other puerperal causes	...	...	...	...	Nil
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	...			...	00.00

Death rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	43.87
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	38.09
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	161.29

Although the death rate of illegitimate infants in their first year is below that of the previous year the high rate still remains a cause of dissatisfaction and is an indication of the lower standard of care of these infants..

## CAUSES OF DEATH

	M.	F.
ALL CAUSES ... ..	266	265
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid ... ..	—	—
2. Cerebro-spinal fever ... ..	1	—
3. Scarlet fever ... ..	—	—
4. Whooping cough ... ..	—	—
5. Diphtheria ... ..	1	1
6. Tuberculosis—respiratory ... ..	9	16
7. Other tuberculosis ... ..	—	1
8. Syphilitic diseases ... ..	—	—
9. Influenza ... ..	1	7
10. Measles . ... ..	—	—
11. Acute polio-myelitis and polio-encephalitis	—	—
12. Acute inf. encephalitis ... ..	—	—
13. Cancer (of buccal cavity; and oesophagus (M) uterus (F) ... ..	7	7
14. Cancer of stomach and duodenum ... ..	6	7
15. Cancer of breast ... ..	—	10
16. Cancer of all other sites ... ..	32	18
17. Diabetes ... ..	—	5
18. Intra-cranial vascular lesions ... ..	29	33
19. Heart Disease ... ..	62	59
20. Other circulatory disease ... ..	9	4
21. Bronchitis ... ..	13	17
22. Pneumonia ... ..	10	13
23. Other respiratory diseases ... ..	3	6
24. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum ... ..	2	2
25. Diarrhoea under 2 years ... ..	3	—
26. Appendicitis ... ..	1	—
27. Other digestive diseases ... ..	6	4
28. Nephritis ... ..	2	7
29. Puerperal and post-abortion sepsis ... ..	—	—
30. Other maternal causes ... ..	—	—
31. Premature birth ... ..	5	4
32. Congenital debility ... ..	8	2
33. Suicide ... ..	6	1
34. Road traffic accidents ... ..	7	2
35. Other violent causes ... ..	26	20
36. All other causes ... ..	17	19

The increase in the death rate was mainly due to a greater number of deaths from respiratory tuberculosis, bronchitis, intra-cranial vascular lesions, and deaths from violence. An unusually hard winter may have contributed to the increased severity of respiratory troubles.





Birth-rates, Civilian Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality, and Case rates for certain Infectious diseases in the Year 1940. Provisional figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns.

	England and Wales	126 C.Bs. Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns Resident Pop 25,000 - 50,000 1931 Census	London Adm County
Live Births	14.6	16.0	15.7	13.7
Still Births	0.55	0.64	0.55	0.44
<b>Deaths:—</b>				
All Causes	14.3	15.8	12.8	17.8
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scarlet Fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	00.2	0.02	0.02	0.02
Diphtheria	0.06	0.07	0.05	0.01
Influenza	0.32	0.29	0.30	0.18
Small-pox	—	—	—	—
Measles	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01
<b>Notifications:—</b>				
Enteric	0.07	0.06	0.10	0.06
Cerebro Spinal Fever	0.32	0.33	0.29	0.28
Scarlet Fever	1.63	1.53	1.57	0.82
Whooping Cough	1.34	1.29	1.35	0.22
Diphtheria	1.16	1.20	1.21	0.60
Erysipelas	0.33	0.36	0.30	0.35
Small-pox	0.00	—	—	—
Measles	10.24	9.23	9.99	1.78
Pneumonia	1.20	1.37	1.00	0.87

\*Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population :—

\*Rates per 1,000 Live Births :—

Deaths under 1 year of age

Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age.

55

4.6

61

5.9

54

4.4

50

5.8

\*A dash (-) signifies that there were no deaths.

Rates per 1,000 Total Births (Live and Still)

(Excluding Abortion)

Maternal Mortality:—

Puerperal Infection (No.147).

Others

Total

Notification:—

Puerperal Fever

Puerperal Pyrexia

0.52

1.64

2.16

—

11.96

Not available.

13.90

9.73

3.34

13.30

including Puerperal Fever

Table showing rainfall in the District during 1940. The observations were taken at the Sewage Farm, Esher.

January	...	...	...	...	2.71
February	...	...	...	...	1.92
March	...	...	...	...	4.18
April	...	...	...	...	2.18
May	...	...	...	...	1.80
June	...	...	...	...	1.10
July	...	...	...	...	2.30
August	...	...	...	...	Nil
September	...	...	...	...	1.35
October	...	...	...	...	2.22
November	...	...	...	...	7.16
December	...	...	...	...	1.60
—					
Rainfall — 1936	...	...	...	...	29.30
1937	...	...	...	...	37.70
1938	...	...	...	...	24.13
1939	...	...	...	...	36.52
1940	...	...	...	...	28.52
—					
Average for past five years	...	...	...	...	31.23

#### General Rainfall over the British Isles

for the year 1936	...	...	...	...	43.62 ins.
1937	...	...	...	...	43.10 „
1938	...	...	...	...	45.5 „
1939	...	...	...	...	44.0 „
1940	...	...	...	...	42.2 „
—					
Average for past five years	...	...	...	...	43.68 „

## SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR  
THE AREA.

(1) The Staff of the Public Health Department is set out at the beginning of this report.

(2) *Laboratory Facilities.*—The Laboratory at Kingston Victoria Hospital has now been taken over by the Ministry of Health as a part of the Emergency Pathological Service and it is still possible to have routine specimens bacteriologically examined at a standard rate.

The cost of bacteriological investigations required by medical practitioners in diphtheria, enteric fever, tuberculosis and certain other special cases is defrayed by the Council.

The following table shows the number of examinations during the year under review :—

Disease.				Results.		
				Posi- tive.	Nega- tive.	Totals.
Tuberculosis	...	...	Faeces	—	3	3
Tuberculosis	...	...	Sputa	14	51	65
Streptococcal diseases	...	...	Swabs	6	19	25
Diphtheria	...	...	Swabs	7	197	204
Paratyphoid	...	...	Faeces	—	17	17
— do. —	...	...	Blood	—	1	1
Suspected Food, etc.	...	...		—	8	8
Totals				27	296	323

A number of samples of milk were submitted for bacteriological examination, details of which will be found under Section E.

(3) *Ambulance Facilities.*—No change.

(4) *Nursing in the Home.*—No change.

(5) *Treatment Centres and Clinics.*—No change.

(6) *Public and Voluntary Hospitals*.—No change.

(7) *Public Mortuary*.—The central mortuary for the whole area is situated in Brooklands Road, Thames Ditton.

The number of bodies received was as follows:—

For Post-mortem examination and inquest ...	...	22
For Post-mortem examination only ...	...	31
War Operations ...	...	15
To await burial ...	...	1

## SECTION C.

### **SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.**

1. *Water*.—The water provided by the two main water undertakers who supply the district has remained above suspicion.

The periodical inspection and sampling of the wells in use in the rural parts of the districts were continued. Forty-eight visits have been made for this purpose and fifteen samples taken.

A set of detailed records relating to the various wells and private water supplies in use in the district has been compiled and kept up-to-date.

The information now available in the Department has been of considerable use from time to time to other departments and services of the Council and also to outside bodies.

Eight samples have been taken of various wells and others sources of supply, with a view to their possible use in an emergency.

During the year two further houses have been given a mains supply, the well water upon which they previously relied having proved unsatisfactory on analysis.

There were fifteen wells still in use at the end of the year, providing the only source of supply to 33 dwellings. These sources were all satisfactory when samples were last taken.

2. *Drainage and Sewerage*.—The increased number of residents, due to evacuation from other areas, renders the work of the treatment of sewerage at the three Disposal Works more difficult,

Authority has been given for the construction of an additional percolating filter at the Esher Works, and this will be carried out as soon as the necessary labour is available.

The pumping plant at the Esher and Molesey Works has undergone repair, both to engines and pumps.

The works for the drainage of part of the Oxshott and Cobham areas are well in hand, but will shortly close down owing to difficulties caused by the war.

Very little building development is taking place, and no sewer extensions are required.

I am indebted to Mr. Fread, the Council's Engineer and Surveyor for the foregoing information.

3. *Rivers and Streams*.—The River Mole is now under the Control of the Thames Conservancy, and increased attention is given to clearing the river, and tracing sources of pollution.

The Rythe Stream, running for a considerable distance through the Council's area, receives attention in matters of clearing and pollution.

4. (i) *Public Cleansing*.—The arrangements for the collection of house refuse are unchanged.

(ii) *Sanitary Inspection of the Area*.—The tabular statement furnished by the Senior Sanitary Inspector is included in his report which is appended to this one.

(iii) *Shops*.—No formal action under the provisions of the Shops Act 1934 has been found necessary. Full details and results of informal notices are recorded in the report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector.

(iv) *Smoke Abatement*.—No formal action has been necessary.



(v) *Eradication of Bed Bugs.*—

(1) Council Houses:—	Inspected for vermin	...	...	43
	Found to be infested	...	...	12
	Disinfested	...	...	8
(2) Other houses:—	Inspected for vermin	...	...	20
	Found to be infested	...	...	20
	Disinfested	...	...	20

5. *Schools.*—The sanitary condition and water supply have been kept under observation and no action has been necessary.

The number of children attending the elementary schools at the end of 1940 was :—

	Boys.		Girls.		Infants.		Total.
Claygate Junior Council	50	...	52	...	—	...	102
Claygate Infants Council	—	...	—	...	73	...	73
(Closed—numbers for week ended 18/11/40).							
Cobham Central C.E.	104	...	88	...	—	...	192
Cobham Junior Mixed C.E.	112	...	102	...	—	...	214
Cobham Downside C.E.	7	...	10	...	17	...	34
Cobham Infants Council	—	...	—	...	107	...	107
East Molesey Infants C.	—	...	—	...	57	...	57
Esher C.E.	56	...	143	...	50	...	249
Hinchley Wood Central C.	134	...	116	...	—	...	250
Long Ditton C.E.	35	...	36	...	—	...	71
Long Ditton Infants C.	—	...	—	...	86	...	86
Molesey Central Council	125	...	122	...	—	...	247
Oxshott C.E.	14	...	12	...	24	...	50
Thames Ditton Council	74	...	68	...	50	...	192
West Molesey Junior C.	123	...	119	...	—	...	242
West Molesey Infants C.	—	...	—	...	127	...	127
East Molesey C.E.	85	...	102	...	—	...	187
Totals	919	...	970	...	591	...	2,480

(Average attendance—not numbers on books).

The notifications of sickness among the children, obtained from the Head Teachers were as follows :—

	1940	1939	1938	1937
Chickenpox	232	74	57	188
Impetigo	2	2	1	7
Mumps	5	19	93	122
Whooping Cough	26	85	58	4
Scabies	1	7	3	1
Ringworm	4	1	—	—
Jaundice	3	—	—	—
German Measles	465	(Not given in previous years).		
Measles	177	(Not given in previous years).		

## SECTION D.

## HOUSING.

## 1.—INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR:—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	...	...	333
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose							333
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose							2
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	...	232

## 2.—REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES:—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers.	...	...	...	...	...	...	188
--	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

## 3.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR:—

**A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.**

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—							
(a) By owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

**B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.**

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—							
(a) By owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil



**C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.**

- |   |     |     |     |     |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | ... | ... | ... | Nil |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders    | ... | ... | ... | Nil |

**D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.**

- |   |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made  | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil |
| (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil |

**4.—HOUSING ACT, 1936.—Part IV.—OVERCROWDING:—**

- |  |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| (a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year   | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 19  |
| (ii) Number of families dwelling therein   | ... | ... |     |     |     | 19  |
| (iii) Number of persons dwelling therein   | ... | ... |     |     |     | 162 |
| (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year   | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1   |
| (c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year   | ... | ... | ... | ... |     | 6   |
| (ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases   |     |     |     |     |     | 39  |
| (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding | ... | ... | ... |     |     | Nil |
| (e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report                   | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil |

## SECTION E.

**INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.**

(a) *Milk Supply.*—The farms, cowsheds and dairies have been regularly inspected. The report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector contains information as to the location, etc., of the farms and a list of the number of licences under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936 and 1938.

The requirements of the Milk and Dairies Order of 1926 have received attention.

Owing to extreme pressure of other work only five samples of milk were taken during the year and these were submitted to the bacteriological and biological test for tubercle bacilli.

These samples were taken from "Accredited" producers and the result is shown as follows:—

Satisfactory	...	...	...	...	4
Containing Tubercle bacillus	...	...	...	...	1
					<hr/>
					5
					<hr/>

As regards the sample containing tubercle bacilli the Surrey County Council was immediately communicated with and I was afterwards informed that the Divisional Veterinary Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries had examined the herd from which the sample was taken and that a cow sent to the knackers to be slaughtered just before the visit by the Veterinary Inspector had been found to be suffering from tuberculosis and which had undoubtedly been the cause of the tuberculous sample.

(b) *Meat and other Foods.*—Details of the inspection of meat and other foods are given in the report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector.

(c) *Adulteration of Foods, etc.*—Full details of administration for the year are given in the report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector.

## SECTION F.

**PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.**

*Scarlet Fever.*—There was a decrease in the incidence of Scarlet Fever, 47 cases being notified, a rate of 1.04 per 1,000 population. All cases except one were treated in hospital.

In addition 4 suspected cases were admitted to hospital where it was later decided that the illness was not scarlet fever.

There were 3 examples of “ return case ” infection, i.e., a second case occurring in a house within twenty-eight days of the return of a scarlet fever patient from hospital.

*Diphtheria.*—Nine cases, two of whom died, have been notified during the year, giving a rate of 0.19 per 1,000 population. None of these cases had been immunised.

The progress of the immunisation scheme described in my last report has been satisfactory.

The following number of children were immunised :—

Number of cases completing treatment during the year (pre-school children 89, school children 602) ...	691
Number of cases failing to attend for the complete course (pre-school children 28, school children 102) ...	130
Number of cases treated by private doctors under Council's scheme ... ..	182
Number of cases treated by private doctors under Council's scheme (not completed) ... ..	2

*Measles and Whooping Cough.*—The incidence of Measles was fairly heavy in the second quarter of the year. A total of 496 cases were notified.

Adult serum was requested and supplied in 14 cases.

Whooping cough began to appear in December.

*Cerebro-spinal Fever.*—Meningococcal meningitis was epidemic, particularly in the early part of the year. Nine cases were notified in this district, five of them in February. Only one case proved fatal, a tribute to the recent improvements in the method of treating this disease.

*Food Poisoning.*—Twelve cases of suspected food poisoning were reported during the year. On investigation there was no evidence in any case that the illness was caused by food.

*Tuberculosis.*—It has not been necessary to take any action under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulation relating to persons suffering from tuberculosis employed in the milk trade or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act 1936. Eight cases of pulmonary tuberculosis came to notice after death. Three of these were transferable deaths who died in other districts. The usual explanation of non-notification is late diagnosis, but many doctors still do not appreciate that patients who move into a district are required to be re-notified even if they have been previously notified elsewhere.

#### NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1940.

Age. Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
15	5	—	1	—	—	2	—	—
25	5	8	—	2	3	9	—	—
35	1	2	—	—	1	3	—	—
45	3	4	—	—	2	1	—	—
55	1	1	—	—	2	1	—	—
65 upw'ds	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Totals	16	15	1	3	9	16	—	1

As compared with the previous year this represents a decrease of 6 in the number of cases notified, and an increase of 12 in the total deaths.

At the end of the year the following number of cases was shown to be suffering from the disease and living in the district.

	Pulmonary.				non-Pulmonary.	
Males	...	...	...	75	...	12
Females	...	...	...	40	...	13
				115		25

# CASES OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASE (other than Tuberculosis) DURING THE YEAR 1940.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	Total Cases Notified	AGE PERIODS													Cases admitted Hospital		Total Cases Notified in each Locality (e.g. Parish or Ward of the District)						
														65 and Over	Thames Ditton	Long Ditton	Esher	Claygate	Cobham	Stoke d'Abernon	East Molesey	West Molesey	
		Un-der 1	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45											
Scarlet Fever	47	1	1	2	2	18	15	2	3	2	1		46	4	4	5	1	6		13	14		
Diphtheria	9			2		4	2		1				9	1				1		2	5		
Erysipelas	2						1		1							1					1		
Pneumonia	36	3	3	3	1	2	6	1	2	3	8	4	8	6	6		2	2		7	13		
Puerperal Pyrexia	6									5	1		1	1			1	2			2		
Malaria	1											1			1								
Whooping Cough	53	5	6	7	6	5	22	1		1			1	3		5	1	1		6	37		
Measles	497	7	28	34	34	57	27	137	11	14	3	1	21	112	58	57	9	17	8	71	165		
Suspected Food Poisoning	12								1	3	5	2	1		1	2	3	1	3		2		
Cerebro-spinal Fever	9		1	2	2	2				1	1		8	2	1			1		2	3		
Totals	672	15	39	47	45	68	323	57	14	31	14	14	5	94	130	72	71	15	33	8	101	242	

		Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Whooping Cough.	Pneumonia	Suspected Food Poisoning.	Cerebro-spinal Fever.	Measles.	Puerperal Pyrexia.	Malaria.	Erysipelas.	Totals.
January	...	2			10	1	4					17
February	...	3			6		5	1	1			16
March	...	6		1	6		21		1			35
April	...	6		1	2		105		2			116
May	...	3	1	4	1	1	171					181
June	...	4	1	1		3	1	114				124
July	...	3		2	4	7		59				75
August	...	2	1	3	1			9	1	1		18
September	...	4			2		1	5				12
October	...	6	1	7	3			2				19
November	...	2	3	7			2	4	1		1	20
December	...	6	2	27	1			2			1	39
Totals	...	47	9	53	36	12	9	497	6	1	2	672



## INSPECTION OF FACTORIES :—

PREMISES. 1.	Inspections		Number of Written Notices		Occupiers Prosecuted	
	2		3		4	
Factories with mechanical power ... ..	24	...	—	...	—	—
Factories without power ... ..	9	...	—	...	—	—
Totals	33	...	—	...	—	—

## DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES :—

PARTICULARS. 1	Number of Defects.			Number of defects in respect of which Prosec- utions were Insti- tuted. 5
	Found. 2	Remedied. 3	Referred to H.M. Inspector. 4	
Want of cleanliness ... ..	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding ... ..	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature ... ..	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation ... ..	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors ... ..	1	1	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences				
insufficient ... ..	3	3	—	—
Unsuitable or defective	2	2	—	—
Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
Other Offences— (Not including offences relating to Home Work or offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Work-shops Transfer of Powers) order, 1921, and re-enacted in the Third Schedule to the Factories Act, 1937) ...	—	—	—	—
	6	6	—	—

# ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1940.

*August, 1941.*

*To the Chairman and Members  
of the Urban District Council of Esher.*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my eleventh Annual Report upon the work of your Sanitary Inspectors for the year 1940.

The report is compiled in accordance with the directions contained in a memorandum from the Ministry of Health and as required by Article XXVII (18) of the Sanitary Officers Order, 1935.

It follows the lines of previous reports and, with one or two exceptions, is tabulated.

## COMPLAINTS.

During the year under review one hundred and twenty complaints were received and all were investigated.

## INSPECTION OF DISTRICT.

Number of houses and premises inspected (ordinary) ...	358
Number of houses inspected and particulars recorded (Housing Act) ... ..	3
Number of houses and premises re-inspected ... ..	629
Number of miscellaneous visits ... ..	429
Number of visits to works in progress ... ..	103
Number of visits to slaughterhouses ... ..	37
Number of visits to dairies, cowsheds and milkshops ...	73
Number of visits to bakehouses ... ..	77
Number of visits to factories with mechanical power ...	24
Number of visits to factories without mechanical power ... ..	9
Number of visits to offices ... ..	4
Number of visits re disinfection ... ..	134
Number of visits re cases of infectious disease ... ..	636



Number of visits re disinfection	...	...	...	...	35
Number of visits re Shops Act, 1912 to 1936	...	...	...	...	41
Visits re Overcrowding (Housing Act, 1936)	...	...	...	...	120
Visits to Schools	...	...	...	...	49
Visits to Outworkers Premises	...	...	...	...	2
Visits to Air Raid Shelters	...	...	...	...	52
Visits to A.R.P. Depots, Cleansing Stations, etc	...	...	...	...	35
Visits re Food and Drugs Acts, 1938	...	...	...	...	187
Visits to Watercourses	...	...	...	...	9
Visits to Foodshops	...	...	...	...	390
Visits to Piggeries	...	...	...	...	9
Visits re Water Supply	...	...	...	...	48
Visits re suspected Food Poisoning	...	...	...	...	17
Visits to War Refugees	...	...	...	...	24
Smoke inspection	...	...	...	...	2

### NOTICES SERVED.

Informal notices	...	...	...	...	232
Abatement notices in respect of nuisances, Public Health Act, 1936, Section 93	...	...	...	...	4
Notices requiring the person having control of a house to execute work, Housing Act, 1936, Section 9	...	...	...	...	6
Requisition for Information, Housing Act, 1936, Section 168	...	...	...	...	4
Notice by Local Authority to put Defective Closets into Repair, Section 45	...	...	...	...	2

## SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS CARRIED OUT:—

### DRAINAGE SYSTEMS.

Repaired, cleansed, etc	...	...	...	...	40
Completely relaid	...	...	...	...	1
Partly relaid	...	...	...	...	5
Additional provided	...	...	...	...	19
Gullies fixed or repaired	...	...	...	...	7
Cesspools emptied and abolished	...	...	...	...	7
Intercepted from sewer	...	...	...	...	2
Stoppers fixed in intercepting traps	...	...	...	...	10
House drains connected to sewer	...	...	...	...	3

### MANHOLES.

New provided	...	...	...	...	24
New covers fixed	...	...	...	...	21

### VENTILATING SHAFTS.

New fixed	...	...	...	...	4
Additional provided	...	...	...	...	4
New mica flap valves fixed	...	...	...	...	7
Ventilating shaft repaired	...	...	...	...	1
Wire cages fixed to ventilating shafts	...	...	...	...	4

## SOIL PIPES.

Repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Additional provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3

## WATER CLOSETS.

Rebuilt	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Additional provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
New pans fixed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
Pans cleansed or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Flushing cisterns repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
New flushing cisterns fixed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
Floors repaired or relaid	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Internal walls rendered or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Doors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Lighted or ventilated	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Seats repaired or new provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
External walls rendered or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Water supply reinstated	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Ceiling repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

## SINKS, BATHS, ETC.

New glazed stoneware sinks provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Additional baths and lavatory basins	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

## WASTE PIPES, ETC.

Repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
New provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Trapped	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

## RAINWATER PIPES.

Repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
New provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Additional provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

## WATER SUPPLY.

Water re-instated or laid on	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Service pipes repaired, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	28

## PAVING.

Yards paved	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Yard paving repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Yard paving extended	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

## DUST RECEPTACLES.

Provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

## DAMPNESS.

Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	33
Eaves gutters repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Eaves gutters provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Ventilation provided under floor	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
External walls pointed	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
External walls rendered	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
House walls treated with solution	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
Sills repaired, weathered or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Damp proof courses fixed	...	...	...	...	...	...	3

## GENERAL REPAIRS.

External walls repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Windows repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
Sash cords renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Additional windows provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
House floors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Skirting repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Doors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Ranges and coppers repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Rooms ventilated	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Internal walls repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	35
Ceilings repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Rooms cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	87
External painting	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Chimney stacks repointed	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Accumulations removed	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Overcrowding abated	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Hand rails provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Obstructive buildings removed	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Houses demolished	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Ditch cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	8

## FOOD.

The usual slaughtering of animals in this district as carried out in peace-time has ceased and there is no "central" slaughterhouse in your Council's area. An animal is occasionally slaughtered by permission of the Food Executive Officer of the Esher Food Control Committee, and this usually takes place at one of the slaughterhouses.

Regular inspection of meat and other food has however been continued by frequent visits to shops.

Appended is a list giving in some detail the class and amount of food found unfit for human consumption.

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In some cases this food was able to be utilised for animal feeding, or in compliance with instructions from the Ministry of Food the material was returned through the suppliers to the recognised salvage organisation whilst in a few cases it was necessary that it should be completely destroyed.

This last measure was only taken when no other course could possibly be found to be expedient or safe.

The following table shows the number of visits to slaughterhouses and shops for the purpose of food inspection and the comparison of the number of these visits during the year under review with the years 1938 and 1939 is interesting :—

	1938	1939	1940
To slaughterhouses ...	351	448	37
To food shops ...	94	154	390

The following number of carcasses were examined :—

Oxen ...	13
Calves ...	1
Sheep ...	4
Pigs ...	79
	<hr/> 97

There were eighteen slaughtermen on the Register at the end of the year.

The following diseased or otherwise unsound meat and food was either surrendered, destroyed or dealt with as mentioned above.

#### AS A RESULT OF GENERAL INSPECTION.

Cod roes ...	18 lbs.	Unsound.
Brawn (2 tins) ...	17 lbs.	..
Veal ...	44½ lbs.	..
Bacon ...	15¾ lbs.	..
Beef (Home killed) ...	211 lbs.	..
Ox Heads (2) ...	56 lbs.	..
Rabbits (113) ...		..
Offal ...	26 lbs.	..
Butter ...	78¾ lbs.	..
Liver ...	2 lbs.	Fluke.
Cheese ...	4½ lbs.	Unsound.
Meat ...	11 lbs.	..

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4 cwt. 1 qr. 8 lbs.

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## AS A RESULT OF AIR RAID DAMAGE.

Fruit and Vegetables ... ..	122 lbs.
Jellies ... ..	3 packets.
Tinned Fruit ... ..	1 tin.
Breakfast Cereals ... ..	5 packets.
Sweets ... ..	4 parcels.
Assorted Stock ... ..	6 „
Fruit and Vegetables ... ..	2 „
Meat ... ..	1,150 lbs.
Butter, Margarine and Cooking Fat ...	82 „
Bacon ... ..	11 „
Various Foods ... ..	296 „
...	870 tins.
...	3 parcels.
<hr/>	
14 cwt. 3 qr. 9 lbs.	

Various foods — 1 load — Floodwater.

## FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

(a) *Sampling of Food and Drugs.*—The sampling of food and drugs throughout the district for submission to the Council's Public Analyst, Mr. Ed. Hinks, F.I.C., has been maintained.

A total of 149 samples was obtained and with the Registrar General's population figure of 45,270 for mid-June gives an average of slightly more than 3 samples per 1,000 population.

The following table gives the details of the food and drugs samples obtained:—

	Formal	Informal
Arrowroot ... ..	—	1
Artificial Cream ... ..	—	1
Aspirin tablets ... ..	—	1
Baking Powder ... ..	—	1
Beef Sausage ... ..	3	—
Butter ... ..	14	3
Camphorated oil ... ..	—	1
Confection of Senna ... ..	—	1
Castor oil ... ..	—	1
Cornflour ... ..	—	2
Cream of Tartar ... ..	—	1
Dessicated Coconut ... ..	—	1
“Fream” — Substitute for Cream ...	—	1
Glycerine ... ..	—	1
Ground Almond ... ..	1	—
Ham and Tongue Paste ... ..	—	1
Honey ... ..	—	1
Iodine Tincture of ... ..	—	1
Jam—Raspberry and Apple ... ..	1	1
Milk ... ..	70	26

Olive oil	...	...	...	...	—	2
Pepper	...	...	...	...	—	2
Rice, ground	...	...	...	...	—	2
Sausages	...	...	...	...	2	—
Shredded Suet	...	...	...	...	—	2
Spice	...	...	...	...	—	1
Squash—Grape Fruit	...	...	...	...	—	1
„ —Lemon	...	...	...	...	1	—
Vinegar, Malt	...	...	...	...	—	1
Total					92	57

RESULTS:— Genuine 137. Not Genuine 12.

The following statement gives details of those samples adversely reported upon by the Public Analyst and the action taken thereon.

Sample No. Article. (F—formal). (I—informal)	Details of irregularity.	Action Taken.
18 Hot Milk (F)	14% added water.	Legal proceedings brought. Summonses dismissed under Probation of Offenders Act on payment of 4/- cost. Warning letter sent to Vendor.
44 Milk (F)	2% deficient in non-fatty solids.	— ditto. —
45 Milk (F)	1% deficient in non-fatty solids.	— ditto. —
63 Milk (F)	3% deficient in milk fat.	— ditto. —
70 Milk (I)	1% added water.	— ditto. —
75 Shredded Suet (I)	Deficiency of beef fat.	— ditto. —
76 Shredded Suet (I)	Deficiency of beef fat.	— ditto. —
78 Milk (I)	8% deficient in non-fatty solids.	— ditto. —
80 Milk (F)	8% added water and 14% deficient in milk fat.	Legal proceedings brought. Fined £5.
98 Raspberry & Apple Jam (I)	Deficiency of Raspberry fruit.	Formal sample taken.
106 Raspberry & Apple Jam (F)	Deficiency of Raspberry fruit. Misleading statements on label.	Legal Proceedings brought. Makers fined £30 and £5 5s. 0d. costs.
136 Artificial Cream (I)	Technical offence regarding description of article on label.	Vendors were requested to change the description of the substance and subsequently did so.



(b) *Registration of Premises*:—Applications for the registration of premises to sell or manufacture ice cream, to store ice cream intended for sale, and to prepare or manufacture sausages, potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food intended for sale continued to be received and after subsequent inspection and report to the Council were duly registered.

At the end of the year the number of premises on the Register was as follows:—

The sale of ice cream only ... ..	61
The sale or the manufacture of ice cream ... ..	8
Preparation of preserved food ... ..	17
Preparation of sausages ... ..	10
	<hr/>
	96
	<hr/>

### FACTORIES.

The number of visits paid under the Factories Act, 1937, was 110:—

77 to Bakehouses.

24 to Factories with mechanical power.

9 to Factories without mechanical power.

There are 129 premises on the register with mechanical power and 144 premises on the register without mechanical power. Nineteen Bakehouses have mechanical power and 11 are without mechanical power.

There are no underground bakehouses.

### SHOPS ACT, 1912—1936.

The number of visits paid under the above Act was 41.

Very few complaints were received as to contravention of the Shops Acts, but in every case the complaint was investigated.

### DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

At the end of the year there were fifty-three persons on the Register as follows:—

Retail Purveyors ... ..	3
Retail Purveyors and Producers of Milk ... ..	11
Wholesale Producers only ... ..	9
Milkshops in the district ... ..	19
Retail Purveyors of Milk residing outside the district ... ..	11
	<hr/>
	53
	<hr/>

There are twenty-three Cowkeepers in the district and the average number of milch cows kept by them is 512.

The dairy farms are situate in the following Wards :—

Claygate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Cobham	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Esher	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Stoke d'Abernon	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Thames Ditton	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
West Molesey	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
								<hr/> 27 <hr/>

Two farms which had been taken off the register the previous year owing to the discontinuance of the keeping of cows were subsequently put back on the register during the year.

At the end of the year there were fourteen farms which were producing "Accredited" Milk, the cowkeepers of which had been placed on the Roll of Accredited Producers.

The Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops have been periodically inspected and the half-yearly limewashing of the cowsheds has been carried out.

Licences under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936, have been issued as follows :—

Dealers' Licences to sell "Tuberculin Tested" Milk	7
Dealers' Licences to sell "Pasteurised" Milk	11
Licences to "Pasteurise" Milk	2
Supplementary Licences to sell "Tuberculin Tested" Milk	3
Supplementary Licences to sell "Pasteurised" Milk	3
Dealers' Licences to bottle "Tuberculin Tested" Milk	1

### DISINFECTION.

During the year disinfection has been carried out at various premises after the following :—

Scarlet Fever	...	47
Diphtheria	...	9
Tuberculosis	...	31
Cancer	...	7
Scabies	...	6
Vermin	...	20
Miscellaneous	...	14

Total 134



Bedding and articles of clothing have been taken from 39 houses and 14 Institutions in the district to the Tolworth Isolation Hospital for steam disinfection at the request of the occupier, and from three houses infectious bedding was removed and destroyed upon request from the occupier.

### SPRAYING PONDS AND DITCHES.

The systematic spraying of ponds, ditches, water-courses and water holes in the district with Mosquito Oil has been carried out as in previous years.

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The foregoing indicates the work carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors as such but does not by any means represent all of their work for the year.

Civil Defence has claimed a considerable part of their time, both during and outside "office hours" and they are engaged in that part of this important service as is appropriate to their experience and training.

The essential Public Health Services which they are primarily called upon to perform have however not been neglected or allowed to suffer, except perhaps in one respect, viz :—the routine work of house to house inspection, which has been curtailed owing to the exigencies of the war.

Complaints of insanitary conditions have always received prompt attention and the opportunity has been taken to get repairs carried out in this manner, but scarcity of labour and materials which are being used for the national effort has limited even this activity.

I desire to place on record the loyal support given by all in the Department and to thank the officers and staffs in the other Departments of the Council for their ready co-operation and helpfulness.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

REGINALD F. WHEELER.

*Senior Sanitary Inspector.*





